City of Santa Barbara
COVID-19 Business Advisory Task Force
July 31, 2020 Meeting Summary

- A number of the Business Advisory Task Force members were able to join and participate in the meeting with City staff.

- Mayor Murillo opened the meeting with a welcome and acknowledgment that this was the final scheduled meeting and recognized that Jason Harris was not in attendance.

- Nancy Anderson with the County gave an update on the current state of the public health and stated that the Public Health Officer was preparing additional guidance on school opening, youth sports, and live music. She stated that over 3,800 business have been certified throughout the County to operate.

- City Administrator Paul Casey provided an update on the City's revenue impacts and Council action to enforce mask compliance on the 500 block of State Street. He noted that tax revenue data lags and the City will be receiving the sales tax data since the pandemic hit in the next several weeks, which will indicate the impact on that revenue source.

- There were a number of questions and updates from task force members regarding impacts to the lodging industry, bicycle riding on State Street, and the need to assist foodservice businesses on Milpas Street due to limitations on outdoor dining opportunities. Several taskforce members spoke of the 13% vacancy rate for downtown retail in comparison to the 3% retail vacancy in the rest of the City and how the State Street promenade has mitigated the level of potential vacancy impact that could have occurred. There was advocacy to extend the operating hours of the temporary outdoor dining past the current 10 p.m. cut off time.

- In recognition that this was the last biweekly scheduled meeting of the task force there was general interest expressed to meet periodically going forward, to share information amongst the task force members, utilize the expertise of task force members, take surveys, and keep apprised of the condition of the business community as the city continues to grapple with the pandemic.